



# News Release

## *Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge*

**3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23434**  
**Phone: 757/986-3705 Fax: 757/986-2353**  
**[www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Suzanne Baird  
Refuge Manager

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge  
Announces  
First Annual Black Bear Hunt

Suffolk, Virginia– Details of the first annual regulated black bear hunt for the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge were released today by Refuge Manager Suzanne Baird. The public review process for this hunt was conducted as part of the Comprehensive Conservation Planning process which was completed in July, 2006. Approximately 21,000 acres in the Virginia portion of the 111,200 acre refuge will be open to bear hunting during a two day hunt scheduled for December 1 and 2, 2006.

A maximum of 100 permits will be issued through a lottery. Applications for the bear hunt lottery will be accepted from September 11 through October 6, 2006. To apply send name, address, and phone number to Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Attention Bear Hunt, 3100 Desert Road, Suffolk, Virginia, 23434. Do not send the fee until you are notified of your lottery selection. Selection confirmations will be mailed by October 13. Upon lottery selection, a permit fee of \$50.00 will be required, and is due in the refuge office no later than close of business on November 6, 2006. In addition to the refuge bear hunt permit requirements, hunters must comply with all Virginia State hunting license requirements.

There will be two hunt areas open: the North Zone accessed through the Jericho Ditch entrance and the South Zone accessed through the Railroad Ditch entrance. The refuge will offer one scouting day for the bear hunt on November 18, 2006. Hunters are encouraged to use the scout day to familiarize themselves with the areas. All individuals must have a valid refuge bear hunt permit to enter the refuge on scouting and bear hunt days. Guests are not allowed to accompany permitted hunters.

The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 refuges administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The refuge was established in 1974 to protect the unique swamp ecosystem and is one of the largest wildlife refuges on the east coast. Hunting is one of the priority public uses on national wildlife refuges, as affirmed in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

For further information please contact the Refuge office at 757/ 986-3705 during business hours on Monday-Friday, from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. For additional hunt information, see [www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp).